

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 JIDDA 03327 081138Z
ACTION CU-04

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 HEW-06 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00

AID-05 USIA-15 /048 W

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P R 081015Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8249

INFO USLO RIYADH

UNCLAS JIDDA 3327

NEA/ARP PASS TO GORDON DANIELS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OTRA, OVIP, AMED, SA (AL-GEZAIRY, HUSSEIN)

SUBJ: INVITATION TO MINISTER OF HEALTH (SAUDI)

REF: (A) RIYADH 0087, (B) STATE 39638, (C) STATE 51401,

(D) JIDDA 3261, (E) STATE 102800

1. WIDESPREAD PUBLICITY IN SAUDI MEDIA COMBINED WITH MORE THAN MONTH PASSING WITHOUT US RESPONSE SUGGESTS THAT APPROACH BY EMBASSY FOR CHANGE OF DATES WOULD PROBABLY BE MISUNDERSTOOD BY MINISTER. GEZAIRY HAS ALREADY INDICATED TO EMBASSY ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL COUNSELOR THAT THESE ARE ONLY DATES OPEN IN HIS BUSY SCHEDULE THIS YEAR.

2. SAUDI HEALTH PROGRAM UNDER CURRENT FIVE-YEAR PLAN CALLS FOR MORE THAN \$7 BILLION IN EXPENDITURES BY GOVERNMENT. US SHARE HAS BEEN EMBARRASSINGLY SMALL, LARGEY DUE TO MINISTER'S UNFAMILIARITY WITH US TECHNOLOGY, PRODUCTS AND SERVICES. IT MAY BE MASSIVELY INCONVENIENT TO USG FOR MINHEALTH TO COME TO WASHINGTON PER PRESENT SCHEDULE. BUT OUR ASSESSMENT IS THAT IF CANNOT COME NOW, HE PROBABLY WILL NOT COME AT ALL-- OR AT LEAST NOT IN FORESEEABLE FUTURE.

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3. COULD AL-GEZAIRY BEGIN ITINERARY ON DAY 4 IN ATLANTA, WINDING UP PROGRAM WITH VISIT TO WASHINGTON AS PREVIOUSLY SCHEDULED FOR DAYS 1, 2 AND 3?

4. FYI: IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT SAUDI ARABIA WILL BE FINANCING LARGE PORTION OF EGYPT'S DEVELOPMENT, BOTH

CIVILIAN AND MILITARY. CONCURRENT VISITS OF EGYPTIAN
AND SAUDI HEALTH MINISTERS COULD PROVE ADVANTAGEOUS TO ALL.
PORTER

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